FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Information is being collected, and to the extent available, will be laid on the Table of the House.

Liberalisation of Gold policy

842. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the gap between the international price of gold and that prevailing in India has widened during 1987 and whether the same is responsible for increase in gold smuggling;

(b) whether in view thereof Government are considering liberalisation of their gold policy and if so, whether the Gold Control Act would be suitably amended;

(c) whether the Reserve Bank of India has recommended that Indians returning home after residing abroad for more than a year may be allowed to bring gold jewellery in increased value and quantity; and

(d) whether Government are considering to freely allow gold to be imported for the manufacture of jewellery for export and if so, by when a decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) The gap between the international price of gold and that prevailing in India varied between 44.15 per cent in January 1987 to 66.22 per cent in December, 1987. The magnitude of smuggling of gold into the country is determined largely by demand pattern, negligible indigenous production and profitability due to differential between international price and rising domestic price.

(b) The two working groups set up by Government to examine the Gold Control Act and the policy of gold have *inter-alia* recommended suitable modifications in the Gold Control Act and the review of existing limits of gold jewellery permitted to be imported, face of duty under the Transfer of Residence Rules, 1978 and Baggage Rules, 1978.

(c) There is no such proposal from the Reserve Bank of India.

(d) Suitable changes in the Replenishment Schemes, Gold Control Act, 1968 and 100 per cent Export Oriented Complexes Schemes etc. have been made which are likely to result in better accessibility of imported gold and should facilitate gold jewellery exports.

Arms supply to terrorists by Pakistan

843. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has noticed any change in the process of arms supply to terrorists in Punjab by Pakistan since the demise of former President, General Zia-ul-Haq; and

(b) whether Government have taken up the issue with the new Government in Pakistan to effectively prevent supply of arms to terrorists in and around Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Chakma refugees in India

844. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Chakma and other tribals from Bangladesh

staying on in India as refugees or otherwise; and

(b) how far the contemplated plan for granting autonomy by the Bangladesh Government to tribal districts and other constitutional reforms in that country are likely to help return these refugees to their home-land in Bangladesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) 44972 Tribals Chakma refugees from Bangladesh were staying in camps as on 25th October, 1988.

(b) Government have seen reports in the press about discussions between the Bangladesh Government and some tribal leaders on a plan to bring about some measures of autonomy in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. The refugees in India have been unwilling to return to Bangladesh as they fear for their safety. Government have been in touch with the Banglalesh Government since the influx of refugees started in April 1986 and have been trying to persuade that Government to take the necessary action to create normal conditions in the Chittagong Hill Tracts which would give the refugees the confidence to return.

Use of forest land allotted for the Construction of nuclear plant at Kaiga in Karnataka

845. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a result of the review by Government it has been found that 25 hectares of the forest land out of 600 hectares originally stipulated would be actually used for the nuclear power project at kaiga in Karnataka;

(b) if so, how the remaining land would be utilised or maintained as forest land; and

(c) what steps are contemplated to help the persons displaced from this land?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) Government of India has permitted 120 hectares of forest land for the setting up of Kaiga Nuclear Plant. Another 612 ha. have been permitted for the laying of transmission line from the Nuclear plant. An exclusion zone of 545 ha. for security has also been allowed and the management of forest in this area will remian with the State Forest Department.

(c) The persons displaced because of this project are proposed to be rehabilitated alongwith the oustees of Kalinadhi Hydro Electrical Project Stage II.

"नो लेट-अप इन टैररिज्म" शीर्षक से समाचार

846. श्री राम जेठमलानी :
श्री राम नरेश यादव :

क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 22 अक्तूबर, 1988 को 'दि हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स' में "नो लेट-अप इन टैररिज्म" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में ब्योरा क्या है : और

(ग) सरकार इस दिशा में कौन कौन से नये और प्रभावी कदम उठाने का विचार रखती है ?

कार्मिक, लोक शिकायत और पेंशन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा गृह मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी. चिदम्बरम्) : (क) जी हां, श्रीमान् ।

(ख) और (ग) सरकार समस्या से अवगत है और स्थिति पर लगातार नजर रखे हुए है। स्थिति की आवश्यकता के अनुसार उपचारात्मक उपाय किए जाते हैं तथा स्थिति से अधिक प्रभावकारी ढंग से निपटने के लिए राज्य सरकारों को सभी संभव सहायता दी जाती है ।